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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /077 W
----------034461 041021Z /10
P 040944Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6089
INFO USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 972

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, RP
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

REF: MANILA 15265

1. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, PHILIPPINE MILITARY HAS FILED SUBVERSION CHARGES AGAINST 108 PERSONS PICKED UP DURING SEPTEMBER 23 ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION IN SANTA CRUZ, MANILA (SEE REFTEL). 70 ARE CHARGED WITH SEDITION, 27 WITH CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT SEDITION, AND 11 WITH POSSESSION/DISTRIBUTION OF SUBVERSIVE DOCUMENTS. MOST OF THOSE CHARGED ARE STUDENTS FIFTEEN ARE NUNS, OF WHOM ALL ARE FILIPINO EXCEPT ONE DUTCH CITIZEN.

2. RELIABLE SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF OCTOBER 4 THAT MOST OF STUDENTS ARRESTED DURING SANTA CRUZ RALLY ARE STILL UNDER DETENTION. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (UP) ADMINISTRATORS APPEALED TO THE MILITARY FOR TEMPORARY RELEASE OF MORE THAN 30 UP STUDENTS DETAINED SEPTEMBER 23 SO THAT THEY COULD TAKE SEMESTER EXAMS THIS WEEK, BUT MILITARY DENIED REQUEST. ON THE OTHER HAND, ALL THE NUNS REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN RELEASED THROUGH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERVENTION OF LOCAL CHURCH OFFICIALS. COMMENT: MONSIGNOR CELLI OF APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE HAD PLANNED TO APPEAL FOR RELEASE OF THE NUNS, BUT APPARENTLY HIS INTERVENTION WAS NOT NEEDED. END COMMENT

3. BULLETIN TODAY COLUMNIST JESUS BIGORNIA BLAMED RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS ON NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY (NPA)

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BIGORNIA WROTE OCTOBER 4, "METRO MANILA IS FAST BECOM-
ING THE MAIN ARENA OF A VICIOUS WAR FOR CONTROL AND
DIRECTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES." HE SAID
CAPTURED NPA DOCUMENTS CONFIRM SUSPICION THAT DEMON-
STRATIONS COMMUNIST-LED. HE ACCUSED NPA OF "PROSTITUT-
ING" THE LEGITIMATE CONCERNS OF YOUTH FOR THEIR OWN
ENDS. BIGORNIA SAID ONLY THE METROCOM POLICY OF "MAXIMUM
TOLERANCE" HAS KEPT CASUALTIES LIGHT.

4. POSSIBLY IN RESPONSE TO CHURCH PARTICIPATION IN RECENT
DEMONSTRATIONS, MILITARY (PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY JUDGE
ADVOCATE'S OFFICE) HAS ORDERED FIFTEEN PRIESTS AND NUNS
TO APPEAR AT OCTOBER 5-7 PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION FOR
ALLEGED CIRCULTION OF SUBVERSIVE MATERIALS. AMONG
PROMINENT CHURCH LEADERS SUMMONED ARE FATHER JAMES NOONAN
(AMCIT HEAD OF THE MARYKNOLL MISSIONARIES).FATHER
ANTONIO OLAGUER, FATHER LOPE CASTILLO, AND SISTER
CHRISTINE TAN.
STULL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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